



SETTLE AREA SWIMMING POOL

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2024

NEW GYM AT POOL

A NEW GYM has opened at Settle Pool helping fulfil our long-term aim to create a facility that is 'more than just a pool'.

The gym is housed in the smaller part of the fitSpace area nearer the pool.

It consists of eight pieces of equipment suitable for use by beginners, who have not used gyms before, as well as those who train regularly. It will be open whenever the building is open, and will be available for use by members and on a one off basis— something that should draw in visitors to the area as well as local residents.



Centre manager Tash Ward tries out one of the new pieces of gym equipment



The writing on the wall

The longer opening hours, something gym users expect, mean that pool sessions can now be extended with early morning lane swims available throughout the working week rather than just on Mondays and Thursdays.

In preparation for the opening, the area was repainted; a mural, depicting a rural scene, added to the far wall; and inspirational slogans put up.

The addition of the gym has led to a change in the membership structures with the options, of swim, gym and classes available either as individual options or an all access membership.

The full list of rates, including concessions, is on the website.

Meanwhile, the larger section of fitSpace, nearer the carpark continues to be used

for a wide range of activities, including meetings and toddler play sessions, as well as for fitness classes: *note - new boxercise classes have now been added to the list of sessions.*

It is expected that the £24,000 cost of the new gym equipment will be recouped within two years and thereafter income from the gym will help reduce overall running costs, making the pool more economic.

The need for a gym alongside the swimming pool was recognised eight years ago when plans were considered to redevelop the building that was opened in 1975 and was, by then, beginning to show its age. Adding a gym to the building was also strongly supported in a survey conducted at that time and is recognised as a good investment at many other public pools across the country.

Centre manager Tash Ward said: “We are delighted by this development. It is a further big step forward for us. We hope that, as well as offering something more for our regular users, the new facility will help us reach out to groups that want to boost their fitness but have not used the pool to date.”

Treasurer Rosie Sanderson said: “We are now able to make this investment thanks to all the work that has been done over the past few months to put pool finances on a much stronger footing.”

FINANCES ARE ON THE UP

The pool annual meeting this summer was told that, following the winter financial crisis, Settle Area Swimming Pool is now operating on a more sound footing. Pool users and supporters heard that a number of measures had helped avert the

crisis that at one point threatened the future of the centre.

The drop in energy prices had been a major factor, with the monthly gas bill now half the £5,000 it had been earlier in the year. Other factors identified by outgoing chair Colin Coleman were the £27,000 in donations received, mainly as a result of fund-raising events; a revised insurance policy that had freed up £40,000 for investment; and the £21,000 from Sport England’s Swimming Pool Support Fund that had been used to extend the bank of solar panels and, as a result, would cut energy bills still further.

The two charity shops that raise more than £80,000 a year and are staffed entirely by volunteers remain crucial to the success of the pool.

The meeting was told that the number of centre users was up, especially in the fitness classes and that thanks to the efforts of staff and trustees the pool was now operating more efficiently.

Several trustees stepped down at the annual meeting, including chair Colin Coleman. A plea was made for pool supporters to consider standing as trustees next year when treasurer Rosie Sanderson is due to step down and a



The annual meeting

replacement will be needed for that crucial role.

Chris Hirst and Mike Smith are now joint chairs of trustees and Ken Larkins and Ian Dryburgh have joined the board – Ian as vice chair. The retiring trustees Iain Crossley and Rob Brown were thanked for their contribution and special mention was made of former trustee Elaine Owen who sadly died earlier this year. Elaine had made a great contribution to the development of the pool, especially in the areas of health and safety and dealing with our insurance bill.

The annual meeting coincided with the 50th anniversary of the start of work on the pool building in 1974 and to mark the occasion Chris Petrie, whose father, Kevin, chaired the trustees for a number of years, spoke of his family's contribution to the pool and read a piece on pool history written by his father a number of years ago.

FAREWELL TO AARON

Duty manager Aaron Guy has left the pool to fulfil his long-term ambition to follow a career in the police service. Aaron joined the pool team last year and has played a big role in the development of the gym as well as leading a number of popular classes. We all wish him well in his new job.

Aaron's departure has led to a rethink in the staff structure and the creation of a part-time post as operations manager. The new role will help relieve pressures both on centre manager Tash Ward and also trustee Anne Galloway, who as a volunteer has had to spend a lot of time at the pool helping with staff and administrative matters. Further staff

changes should increase the number of classes we run and ensure the reception desk is covered at all times. The new operations manager is due to start in November.

In other changes this autumn, trustee Cynthia Moorhead has stepped down for personal reasons. Cynthia has worked hard for the pool, both as part of the team of shop volunteers and helping on staffing. Elaine Howarth, a long time pool supporter, has now joined the trustees. But as noted above we are still looking for new trustees to join the board.

FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The addition of a new bank of solar panels this summer, financed by a grant from the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund, is already helping reduce our electricity bills. It has also put the focus on how we can become more environmentally friendly.

A condition of the Sport England grant



The new solar panels at the front of the building double the amount of electricity we can generate.

was that the pool, like other beneficiaries of the fund, was the subject of an environmental audit. Andrew Brindle from consultants Right Directions spent more than four hours at the pool in late September. His 25 page report makes a number of recommendations that are now being followed up.

In a further important environmental measure, cavity wall insulation is being injected into the pool walls this autumn.

CHANNEL SWIM FOR POOL



Many people go to great lengths to support the pool but none more so than Jonathan Green (*above*) who swam the 21 miles from England to France in September, accompanied only by a pilot boat.

He braved one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world facing hazards including swarms of jellyfish, To date he has raised more than £2,000 for the pool. You can

show your support at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/jonathan-green-channel-swim2024>

TEA-RRIFIC FUND RAISER

The pool was fortunate enough to be allocated the final Langcliffe Teas session of the season on September 29. And despite a chilly autumnal wind there was an amazing turnout both of volunteers and tea drinkers. The Settle Wheelers played a big role in helping organise the event and thanks are due to all those who provided tombola prizes, cakes, scones and savouries or just came along to ensure all the tables were occupied. The event raised more than £800 and showed once again what tremendous support there is for the pool across the local community.

KEEP IN TOUCH

For the latest information about sessions at Settle Pool visit the timetable section of our website at

<http://www.settleswimmingpool.co.uk>

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<https://www.facebook.com/SettleAreaSwimmingPool>

<https://twitter.com/SettlePool>

<https://www.instagram.com/settleareaswimmingpool/>

COULD YOU BE A POOL TRUSTEE?

Settle Area Swimming Pool is looking for new trustees to join our board. The main requirement is a commitment to the continuing success of the pool as a resource for the whole community.

If you are interested or just want to have a chat, without obligation, get in touch with Ian Orton, the secretary, through

secretary@settleswimmingpool.co.uk or call him on 07841 577 991.